BATTLEWORLD

MASTER OF KUNG FU

SECRET WARS

MARVEL

BLACKMAN
TALAJIC
SUDZUKA
MRVA

002

SECRET WARS

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

NOW ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD**: A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

MASTER OF KUNG FU

CHAPTER TWO: MASTER'S SON

IN **K'UN LUN**, THE TOURNAMENT OF THE **THIRTEEN CHAMBERS** TO CHOOSE THE LEADER OF K'UN LUN THROUGH COMBAT IS NEAR AT HAND. **SHANG-CHI**, THE DISGRACED SON OF **EMPEROR ZHENG ZU**, JUST WANTS TO DRINK AWAY HIS PAIN IN ANONYMITY. WHEN SOME OF ZHENG ZU'S THUGS TRY TO KILL HIM, SHANG-CHI ESCAPES WITH THE HELP OF A GROUP OF **OUTCASTS**.

WRITER: HADEN BLACKMAN

PENCILER: DALIBOR TALAJIĆ

INKER: GORAN SUDŽUKA

COLORIST: MIROSLAV MRVA

LETTERER: VC'S TRAVIS LANHAM

COVER: FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA

EDITOR: JAKE THOMAS

EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA

PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

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DO YOU KNOW WHY THEY CALL US THE RED HAND?
NO? THEN LET ME TELL YOU...
...OUR HANDS ARE STILL STAINED RED BY THE BLOOD OF ANCIENT MASTERS.
THE FIRST DROPS WERE SPILLED SO VERY LONG AGO, DURING THE WAR BETWEEN THE GREAT MASTERS.

ON THAT BEAUTIFULLY BLOODY BATTLEFIELD, THE RED HAND MASTER STEPPED IN FRONT OF A SPEAR MEANT FOR ANOTHER.

THE IRON FIST.

THE LEGENDS CLAIM THAT THEY WERE **LOVERS.**

BUT PERHAPS IT WAS JUST A POORLY TIMED DODGE THAT PUT HER INTO THE SPEAR'S PATH.

IT DOES NOT REALLY MATTER. SHE DIED FOR HIM ALL THE SAME.

AND IN A WAY, SHE DIED FOR ALL OF K'UN LUN AS WELL.

OVER HER GRAVE, THE GREAT MASTERS PROMISED TO DEFEND K'UN LUN FROM ONE ANOTHER, AS THE RED SAI HAD DEFENDED THE IRON FIST.

THEY OPENED THE THIRTEEN CHAMBERS TO SELECT AN EMPEROR THROUGH TRIAL BY COMBAT.

SPURRED BY THE MEMORY OF HIS LOST LOVE, THE IRON FIST TOOK THE THRONE.

OR SO THE STORYTELLERS SAY...

MANY HAVE RULED SINCE. EMPERORS SELECTED FROM ALL OF THE GREAT SCHOOLS...

...BUT **NEVER** THE RED HAND.

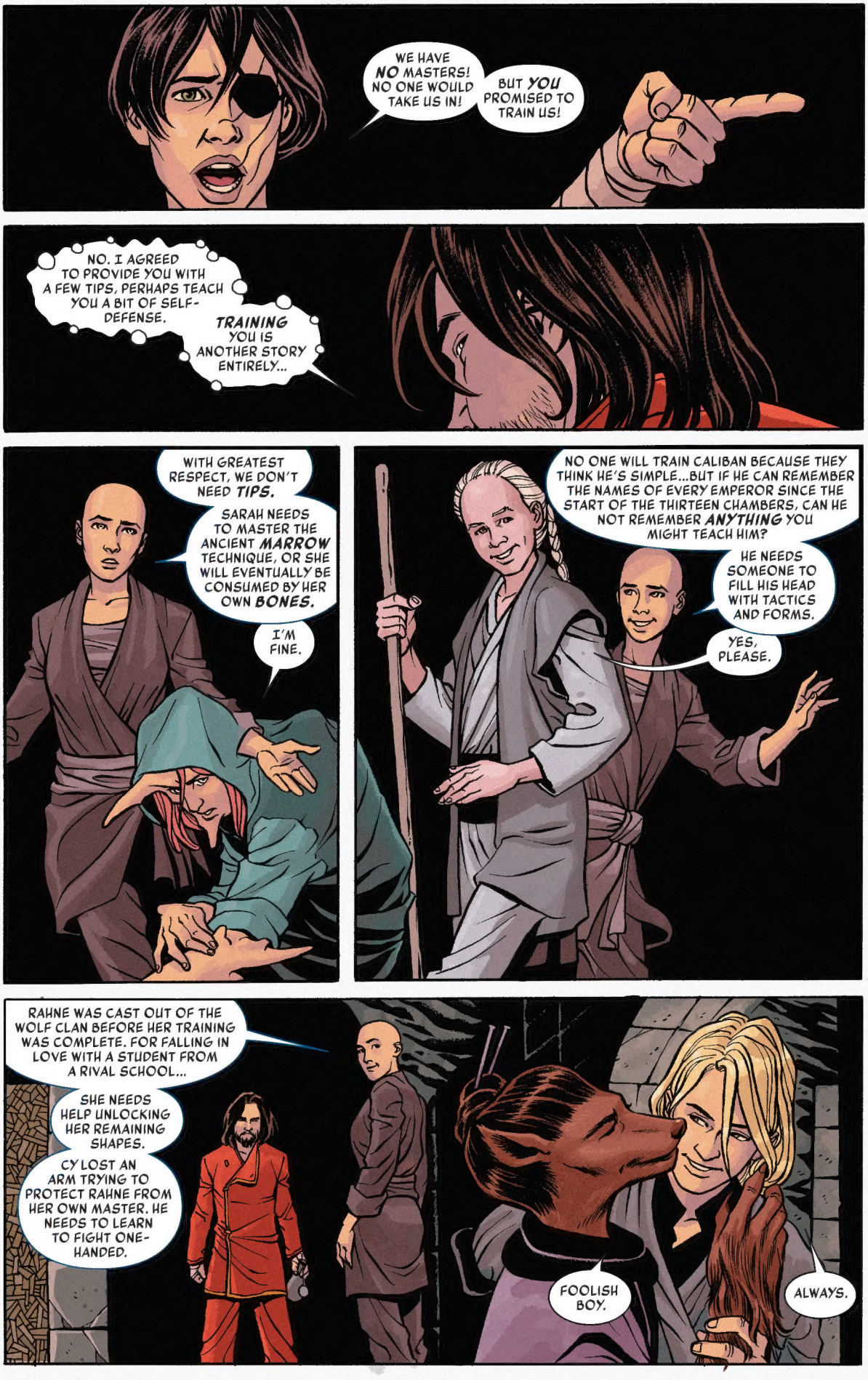
INSTEAD, WE HONOR OUR FIRST MASTER BY DEVOTING OURSELVES TO WHOEVER SITS ON THE THRONE.

AND WE WILL DO **WHATEVER** THE EMPEROR COMMANDS, EVEN GIVE OUR LIVES.

SO, LESTER, IF I AM WILLING TO DIE FOR ZHENG ZU, WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM WILLING TO DO TO *YOU* IN HIS NAME?
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
I CAN'T TAKE YOUR TONGUE OR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK. BUT YOUR THUMBS...OR YOUR NOSE?
DON'T CUT OFF ALL THE FUN PARTS BEFORE I GET MY TURN.
NO ONE IS CUTTING UP ANYONE, LAUGHING SKULL.
LESTER, WE KNOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN CHASING SHANG-CHI, TRYING TO GET BACK INTO EMPEROR ZU'S GOOD GRACES.
YOU GOT IT WRONG, RAND-K'AI. I'M *RETIRED.* A FARMER.
AND EVEN IF I WERE HIDING SOMETHING, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? KILL ME?
YOU'RE THE IRON FIST. HONORABLE *PROTECTOR* OF K'UN LUN.
YES. BUT I ALSO MADE A VOW TO *AVENGE* MY MASTER'S DEATH...
...SO, IF YOU DO NOT TELL US WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED, I WILL SEND MY CHI STRAIGHT INTO YOUR *HEART.*
WHERE IS *SHANG-CHI?*
IF I KNEW WHERE TO FIND HIM, I WOULD HAVE DELIVERED HIS HEAD TO ZU ALREADY.
BUT ALL I'VE HEARD IS THAT HE'S VANISHED. EATEN ALIVE...

"...BY K'UN LUN ITSELF."
GAH, IT STINKS IN THESE TUNNELS.
WELL, COME ON, OUTCASTS. I'D LIKE TO SEE THE SUN AGAIN SOMEDAY.
SLOPPY.
ME, I MEAN.
NNNGH!
THE REST OF YOU?
SLOW AND SLOPPY.
AT LEAST I HAVE AN EXCUSE. I'M VERY, VERY DRUNK...
GURK!

HAI!
YOU ARE JUST UNRULY...
GET HIM, CAL!
...UNFOCUSED...
YAH!
...UNINSPIRED.
UNNGFFH!
CAL!
YOU KNOW I HAVE FEET, RIGHT? YOU REALLY SHOULD...
SINCE I'VE USED THEM TO KNOCK YOU DOWN ALL MORNING.
HONESTLY, WHO TRAINED YOU? YOUR FORMER MASTERS SHOULD BE THROWN OVER THE CITY WALLS...


WE HAVE NO MASTERS! NO ONE WOULD TAKE US IN!
BUT YOU PROMISED TO TRAIN US!
NO. I AGREED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A FEW TIPS, PERHAPS TEACH YOU A BIT OF SELF-DEFENSE.
TRAINING YOU IS ANOTHER STORY ENTIRELY...
WITH GREATEST RESPECT, WE DON'T NEED TIPS.
SARAH NEEDS TO MASTER THE ANCIENT MARROW TECHNIQUE, OR SHE WILL EVENTUALLY BE CONSUMED BY HER OWN BONES.
I'M FINE.
NO ONE WILL TRAIN CALIBAN BECAUSE THEY THINK HE'S SIMPLE...BUT IF HE CAN REMEMBER THE NAMES OF EVERY EMPEROR SINCE THE START OF THE THIRTEEN CHAMBERS, CAN HE NOT REMEMBER ANYTHING YOU MIGHT TEACH HIM?
HE NEEDS SOMEONE TO FILL HIS HEAD WITH TACTICS AND FORMS.
YES, PLEASE.
RAHNE WAS CAST OUT OF THE WOLF CLAN BEFORE HER TRAINING WAS COMPLETE. FOR FALLING IN LOVE WITH A STUDENT FROM A RIVAL SCHOOL...
SHE NEEDS HELP UNLOCKING HER REMAINING SHAPES.
CY LOST AN ARM TRYING TO PROTECT RAHNE FROM HER OWN MASTER. HE NEEDS TO LEARN TO FIGHT ONE-HANDED.
FOOLISH BOY.
ALWAYS.

AND I...I TRIED TO MASTER A TECHNIQUE FAR TOO ADVANCED FOR MY YEARS OF TRAINING AND FAILED. I, TOO, WAS CAST OUT...
NOW, I JUST NEED SOMEONE TO SHOW ME HOW TO COME BACK...
I AM SORRY. YOU HAVE ME CONFUSED WITH A MASTER.
I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER YOU.
BUT YOU DO.
YOU WERE THE EMPEROR'S GREATEST STUDENT. YOU HAVE MASTERED NINE OF ZHENG ZU'S LEGENDARY TEN TECHNIQUES...
YOU CAN TEACH THEM TO US.
YOU CAN TEACH US THE SECRETS OF THE TEN RINGS.

DO YOU REALLY WANT ME TO TEACH YOU AS MY FATHER WOULD?
IF I WERE ZHENG ZU, I WOULD FLAY SARAH ALIVE. MAKE HER WATCH AS I EXPOSED THE BONES THAT SHE IS TOO WEAK TO CONTROL.
IF I WERE MY FATHER, I WOULD PIT CALIBAN AGAINST EVEN SIMPLER CREATURES. HE WOULD SPEND HIS DAYS WRESTLING DONKEYS FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF MY COURT.
RAHNE AND CY BELIEVE THAT THEIR LOVE SAVED THEM, BUT IT HAS CRIPPLED THEM. IF I WERE ZU, I WOULD TORTURE THEM SIDE BY SIDE...
ALWAYS PROMISING "JUST DENOUNCE YOUR LOVE, AND THE PAIN WILL STOP..." I SUSPECT CY WOULD RELENT FIRST.
THEN I WOULD FEED HIM RAHNE'S BROKEN HEART.
LOVE IS FLEETING, BUT ITS WOUNDS LAST FOREVER.
IF I WERE THE EMPEROR, I WOULD ONLY BLIND YOU, CALLISTO.
IF YOU COULD NOT PROTECT ONE EYE, THEN YOU DON'T DESERVE THE OTHER.
AND YOU? KITTEN...
I'D LET YOU LIVE. JUST AS YOU ARE NOW.
A GHOST FORCED TO WATCH ALL YOUR FRIENDS SUFFER AND DIE, UNABLE TO LIFT A HAND TO PROTECT THEM.
FORGET ABOUT THE TEN RINGS. YOU'RE ALL BETTER OFF DOWN HERE.
NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO FIND A QUIET PLACE TO PASS OUT.

THE CITADEL OF EMPEROR ZHENG ZU.
YOU WERE MY MOST PROMISING STUDENT. A RESOLUTE SOLDIER. A RELENTLESS WARRIOR. A RUTHLESS LEADER.
WHICH ONLY MAKES YOUR RECENT MISSTEPS SO MUCH MORE HUMILIATING.
FIRST, MY DRUNKARD SON EMBARRASSES YOU.
THEN YOU ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE DEFEATED BY A PACK OF STREET URCHINS AND OUTCASTS...
...THE LOWEST CASTE OF OUR SOCIETY.
MASTER, PLEASE...
FOR YOUR FAILURES, YOU WILL SACRIFICE YOUR GREATEST WEAPONS...
...YOU WILL GIVE ME YOUR HANDS!
AAAUUGGH!!

NOW, YOU HAVE A CHOICE, RAZOR FIST. YOU CAN BLEED TO DEATH ALL OVER MY FLOOR...
OR YOU CAN STAGGER BACK TO THE SCHOOL, BEG SHIRO TO CAUTERIZE THOSE WOUNDS, AND BEGIN LEARNING TO FIGHT WITH YOUR STUMPS.
YES, MASTER...
WE CAN SUBMIT OUR OWN REPORTS, NORRIN.
THEN TELL ME HOW YOU, TOO, HAVE FAILED.
DO NOT CHASTISE ME, ZU. FOR YEARS, I HAVE HUNTED YOUR SON.
BECAUSE YOU LET HIM LIVE.
WATCH THE SCORN, SHERIFF. YOU DISRESPECT MY MASTER.
AND OUR EMPEROR.
FOR NOW.
WHAT?
THE THIRTEEN CHAMBERS REOPEN SOON, AND NO ONE CAN FORETELL WHO WILL EMERGE WITH THE THRONE. EVEN THE IMMORTAL MASTER ZU MUST FALL EVENTUALLY.
SO I WOULD TAKE GREAT CARE THAT YOU DO NOT MAKE AN ENEMY OF THE NEXT EMPEROR.
YOU AREN'T EMPEROR YET, LEAD FIST...

ENOUGH.
YOU MAY FINALLY DEFEAT ME IN THE THIRTEEN CHAMBERS, RAND-K'AI...
BUT THE TRIAL BY COMBAT IS STILL DAYS AWAY.
UNTIL THEN, YOU HAVE BUT ONE MISSION. FIND SHANG-CHI.
GENTLEMEN... I SUSPECT OUR LUCK HAS TURNED...
I NEED TO SEE EMPEROR ZU.
HIS SON...
...I WILL TELL ZU WHERE TO FIND SHANG-CHI. IN EXCHANGE FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO THE TEN RINGS.

RAWROOO!
QUIET, YOU.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
HEY!
YOU WERE THE RUNT OF YOUR LITTER, YOU KNOW THAT? MY FATHER WANTED TO DROWN YOU.
I SHOULD HAVE LET HIM.
SHANG-CHI! GET UP!
WHAT NOW, KITTEN?
WHAT NOW?! HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE SCREAMS?!

YOU! WOLF CUB! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU CAN ***SMELL*** HIM.

TELL ME WHERE SHANG-CHI IS HIDING, AND WE WILL LET ALL OF YOU GO.

YOU NEED TO HELP THEM!

THEY AREN'T IN ANY REAL DANGER. RAND-K'AI IS AN IRON FIST. HE WON'T HURT ANY OF THEM.

I CAN'T SMELL ANYTHING EXCEPT THE EMPEROR'S ***STINK*** ON YOU.

THE EMPEROR WANTS ALL OUTCASTS DEAD. BUT IF YOU TELL ME WHERE TO FIND THE ***MURDERER*** SHANG-CHI, I WILL PROTECT YOU...

...IF YOU REFUSE, THEN YOUR DEATHS WILL BE WELL DESERVED.

RAHNE...

CY?

DON'T DO IT, BOY...STAY DOWN...RAND-K'AI'S ***BLUFFING...***

LET HER GO!

OH, LOOK. SHE HAS A ***BOYFRIEND...***

NICE TRY, HERO.
GUUUH!
CY!!!!
WHAT...
NO...
OH, CY...
YOU MANIAC! I WANTED THEM ARRESTED, NOT EXECUTED!
SORRY, SHERIFF...
NO NO NO...
DO SOMETHING, YOU COWARD!
YOU HAVE YOUR MISSION, BUT I HAVE MINE.
THE EMPEROR ORDERED ME TO CULL THE WEAK.

I WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE DIE IN MY FATHER'S NAME.
NO.
KRACK
GO! GET THEM OUT!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
SHANG-CHI... AT LAST...
I HAVE MASTERED NINE OF THE TEN RINGS TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING THE NIGHTBRINGER.
I CAN COVER OUR ESCAPE. FOR ABOUT THIRTY SECONDS.

SHANG-CHI! STOP!
FACE ME!
KIAI!
NO!
WHERE... WHERE IS HE?!?
VANISHED. AGAIN.

LATER.
KITTEN?
GO AWAY.
YOU COULD HAVE SAVED HIM. YOU COULD HAVE SAVED THEM ALL.
YES, PROBABLY... BUT YOU WERE RIGHT. I *WAS* AFRAID.
THE LAST TIME I USED ANY OF THE TEN RINGS, I MURDERED A GREAT MASTER.
ON THE EMPEROR'S ORDERS.
I NEVER WANT TO BE HIS ASSASSIN AGAIN.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU RUN? LEAVE THE KINGDOM FOREVER?
BECAUSE NOW I KNOW THAT TO SAVE MYSELF...
TO SAVE THE LOWEST CASTE...
...I MUST FACE ZHENG ZU IN THE THIRTEEN CHAMBERS.
ONLY A GREAT MASTER CAN ENTER THE TOURNAMENT.
NO. ANY GREAT MASTER CAN ENTER. NO MATTER HOW SMALL HIS SCHOOL, NO MATTER HOW TROUBLED HIS PAST...
CALIBAN IS RIGHT.
BUT A MASTER NEEDS A SCHOOL. AND A SCHOOL NEEDS STUDENTS.
TAKE ME AS YOUR MASTER, AND I SWEAR TO YOU...
...WE WILL SAVE ALL OF K'UN LUN.
TO BE CONTINUED

BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE
FINCH